A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, February 13. 1706.

PAtience, Gentlemen, but a little for this one *Review* more, and I'll lay by this tedious Subject a while, and divert you with ſomething leſs ſerious——— Union is a ſtrange thing in *England*, and now we begin to talk near Hand; preſents us a vaſt Variety of Branches, which take up more Time, than perhaps has been expected.

But pray, Gentlemen, conſider, if itching Ears be a National Error, and nothing can be material enough to hold long, and pleaſe you too; yet this being a Subject, which perhaps may never come before you again, eſpecially if rightly manag'd now, you will never think it long hereafter, if you can but have Patience now.

It cannot but be diverting, when our Poſterity ſhall ſee the bleſſed Fruits of this Union to look back and ſee, who oppos'd it—The View of the ridiculous Scruples, the wild Demand of *what Security* to every Trifle, the *Suſpicions*, *Suggeſtions*, the *May be's*, *Suppoſes*, *What if's*, and all the Pageantry of our ſorrowful Complainers in the *North*, how vain, how empty, how abſurd will they appear!

What a Monſter of Incoherence will appear, hatch'd between a *Jacobite* and a jealous *Presbyterian*, in the wild Concurrence of both to the Nation's Good? How will the latter bluſh, when he ſhall be upbraided with his oppoſing the only Security, he could ever attain to in this World for the Church of *Scotland*? When the *Britiſh* Conſtitution, built on the firm Baſe of Juſtice and Truth, comes to diffuſe the Bleſſed Rays of Peace and Liberty, and the Church of

of *Scotland* comes to flouriſh under a mild, a peaceable and a juſt Government! How will they be aſham'd of all their Suſpicions, their Jealouſies, their Diffidence in their Neighbours, and their Backwardneſs to truſt thoſe, that having ſettled themſelves on a ſure Foundation, are willing to help them to the ſame Happineſs?

This indeed affects the People of *Scotland*, as far as hitherto can be underſtood, and I own, I mean by this; that the unreaſonable Jealouſies there, among the very beſt People, have created innumerable Difficulties; but thoſe Difficulties ſeem to be over now, and they come in among thoſe People, whom it often pleaſes GOD to ſave, by what they apprehend to be their Deſtruction.

I will not yet apply this to *England*, the Scene is now removed hither, what the Oppoſers of it will have to argue from, I have not yet heard, nor can I well imagine?

I know, the main Objections are Trade and the Church— But I cannot but think, both are ſo ſtale, that they will be hardly ſtarted again; and if they are, I am not at all at a Loſs to obviate both; and prove, that in Trade *Scotland* ſhall not do you the leaſt Injury, but rather improve you, and yet encreaſe her ſelf too; eſpecially when you ſhall think fit to aſſiſt her by all thoſe Methods, Neighbourhood Kindneſs and your own Intereſt ſhall prompt you to——And this I make no Queſtion to make appear to the general Satisfaction.

As to the Church, I think, one ſide or other muſt be in the wrong. If the Church of *England* be in Hazard of Subverſion by the Encroachments of Presbytery, then all our uneaſie Friends in *Scotland* muſt be in the wrong, and they may ſit down ſatisfied they are in a State of Security.

But if the Church of *Scotland* be in Hazard from the Legiſlation of Biſhops, the Superiority of Votes in a *Britiſh* Parliament, from the Invaſion of their Eſtabliſhment and Infraction of the Treaty, from the Power and Strength of the *Engliſh*. *Why then*, Gentlemen of the Church of *England*, *you muſt hold your Peace*! The Complaint can be but on one ſide——And ſo I ſhall have but one ſort of Oppoſers in this Argument—— And I am very indifferent which it is; for I think, it will be no difficult Task to prove, that the ſacred Stipulations of the Treaty are a firm and indiſſoluble Barrier between both, by which either ſide are effectually ſecured beyond a Poſſibillity of being injur'd by one another; and this I doubt not to prove from all the Arguments, that are proper to convince Men of Sence.

As to unconvertible Obſtinacy, I have nothing to ſay to it, I am not talking to Brutes, but to Men, to Chriſtians, Men of Reaſon, and Men that are ſuppoſed to exerciſe that Reaſon; and to ſuch I muſt ſay, I think, 'tis hard to find them reſolve, not to be anſwer'd, but by Conſequences.

However, I am glad to have the Opportunity to ſay to ſuch, the buſineſs is over on that ſide; the Power of Scruples, Jealouſies, and Phlegmatick Surmiſes is at an End; nor is their any occaſion to pitty them, but I Congratulate their diſappointed paſſions, I am glad to tell them they ſhall be happily defeated; every thing ſhall be better to them then their Coarſe, and darkned Fancies ſhall repreſent, and they ſhall only have it to remember, that they only were found among the Unbelieving in *Iſrael*, that had not Hearts to conſent to the happineſs of their Native Country.

I confeſs, it would have been ſtrange, if *Scotland* ſhould have been without ſome among her wiſe ones, whoſe Judgment ſhould be darken'd; as to their Countries Good, I am not to expect, that every one ſhould ſee as far as another, but that which I complain of, is, not that they do not ſee, but that they *will not ſee*. Ignorance when natural or accidental, or otherwiſe occaſion'd by its proper Negative is *an Infirmity*; but when either the effect of negligence in eaſie Inquiries, or rejecting Information in what we ought to know, it then becomes Criminal and Inexcuſable.

The Application, I deſire to make of all this, is to *England*, not to fall into the ſame blindneſs, and raiſe the like needleſs and weak ſcruples, ſuggeſtions, and ſurmiſes of what may happen, or what they fear will happen, and fright Ignorant well-meaning People with Spectrums of they know not what.

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You see the Church of *Scotland*, pretends to be afraid of their Ruin, and of being swallow'd up by the Encroachments of the Church of *England*; they say their Reasons are good, for those fears they are jealous, even of the whole Treaty on that particular Account—The fear cannot be here too—Let mutual stipulations secure you both, and let needless fears be banish'd—This is coming to a Treaty of Union, with a Spirit of Union —— And without this Temper, no Union however wisely made, can be effectual on either side; for in vain are Treaties, Articles, and Agreements; if a Spirit of Jealousie remains between the Nations, if a suspition and fear of Encroachment remains, mutual distrust will have no other Effect, then to prevent the mutual Advantages of the Treaty, and rob both sides of that Happiness which they may both enjoy.

This is that indeed, which may bring both sides to fulfil the Evil Tydings, the false Prophets of each Nation have foretold, and nothing but this can do it; and I cannot but observe, that those who have first Prophecy'd, or rather unhappily suggested the possibility of ill Consequences from the Union are very busy by their Contrivances to bring their sayings to pass; they are busie Dividing, Misrepresenting, and raising Breaches between the Nations, that if possible, the Evil Effects they have foretold may come to pass, and they may at one Blow, both ruine their Country, and boast of the goodness of their Judgment in foretelling it.

To such I can only say this, they are the worst sort of Incendiaries, and the Ruine and Destruction of their Country lyes doubly at their Door, they would do well to consider it in time; for whenever their Folly comes to be detected, they will certainly be justly Condemn'd of all good Men, and every side will be against them; for tho' Innocent Men may fall foolishly out with one another, they always discover the Sowers of Discord at last, and equally abhor him, if not endeavour to punish him.

If ever these Nations Unite, whether it be that such a Union shall be follow'd with Success or not? with Success these sort of People will share the common Aversion; they that fall out, let the Quarrel issue how it will, always hate the Hand that set them together by the Ears; if it be Evil, it is odds if it does not fall on their Heads, and very well they will deserve it; if it be good they will be hated for endeavouring to lessen or delay it.

'Tis a Lesson I would have all sowers of Discord learn, they always gain the universal hatred let Matters go which way they will, and very often are made the Sacrifice of both Parties, offer'd up to their succeeding Reconciliation.

WHEREAS, the Author of this Paper has for some time been out of England, *and consequently is suppos'd not near enough to his Affairs, to receive such Letters as are wanted to be convey'd to him; These are to give Notice, that any Letters left as usual for him at Mr.* Matthews *will carefully be sent to him, and such Answers as are proper be return'd by him in a Weeks time, either in this Paper or as shall be Directed.*

Also that all such serious or diverting Subjects, whether Questions or otherwise, as any of the Ingenious Readers are pleas'd to send as formerly, shall be spoken to as usual, in the best manner the Author can do it, which he hopes shall be as acceptable as before.

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